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United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

Report of the Sixth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly resolution 62/62 of 6 December 2007.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.

3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 24th and 25th meetings, on 4 and 12 November 2009. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/64/SR.24 and 25).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/495).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.17

5. At the 25th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the Bureau, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law" (A/C.6/64/L.17).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.17 without a vote (see para. 8).

7. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Ghana made a statement in explanation of position (see A/C.6/64/SR.25).

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III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, in which it established the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law to contribute towards a better knowledge of international law as a means of strengthening international peace and security and of promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States,

Recognizing that the Programme of Assistance is a core activity of the United Nations and that the Programme has provided the foundation for the efforts of the United Nations to promote a better knowledge of international law for more than four decades,

Recognizing also that the increasing demand for international law training and dissemination activities creates new challenges for the Programme of Assistance,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance[1] and the views of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, which are contained in that report,

Considering that international law should occupy an appropriate place in the teaching of legal disciplines at all universities,

Convinced that States, international and regional organizations, universities and institutions should be encouraged to give further support to the Programme of Assistance and increase their activities to promote the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, in particular those activities which are of special benefit to persons from developing countries,

Reaffirming that in the conduct of the Programme of Assistance it would be desirable to use as far as possible the resources and facilities made available by Member States, international and regional organizations, universities, institutions and others,

Reaffirming also the hope that, in appointing lecturers for the seminars to be held within the framework of the fellowship programmes in international law, account would be taken of the need to secure the representation of major legal systems and balance among various geographical regions,

1. *Approves* the guidelines and recommendations contained in section III of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in particular those designed to achieve the best possible results in the administration of the United Nations Programme of

[1] A/64/495.

Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law within a policy of maximum financial restraint;

2. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to carry out in 2010 and 2011 the activities specified in his report, including the provision of:

(a) A number of fellowships to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries to attend the International Law Fellowship Programme in The Hague in 2010 and 2011;

(b) A number of fellowships to be determined in the light of the overall resources for the Programme of Assistance and to be awarded to qualified candidates from developing countries to attend regional courses in international law in 2010 and 2011;

and to finance the above activities from provisions in the regular budget, when appropriate, as well as from voluntary financial contributions for these fellowships, which would be received as a result of the requests set out in paragraphs 19 to 21 below;

3. *Also authorizes* the Secretary-General to award a minimum of one scholarship in both 2010 and 2011 under the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea, subject to the availability of new voluntary contributions made specifically for this fellowship;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts to strengthen, expand and enhance the international law training and dissemination activities within the framework of the Programme of Assistance in 2008 and 2009;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider admitting, for participation in the various components of the Programme of Assistance, candidates from countries willing to bear the entire cost of such participation;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary resources to the programme budget for the Programme of Assistance for the next and the future bienniums with a view to ensuring the continued effectiveness of the Programme of Assistance;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations legal publications prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, and strongly encourages their continued publication;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs to bring up to date the United Nations legal publications, and, in particular, commends the Codification Division for its desktop publishing initiative, which has greatly enhanced the timely issuance of its legal publications;

9. *Welcomes* the creation by the Codification Division of the new websites for the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*,[2] the United Nations diplomatic conferences,[3] and the United Nations legal publications portal, as well as the

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[2] www.un.org/law/UNJuridicalYearbook/index.htm.

[3] http://untreaty.un.org/cod/diplomaticconferences/index.html.

expansion of the website on the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*;[4]

10. *Encourages* the Office of Legal Affairs to continue to maintain and expand its websites listed in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General[1] as an invaluable tool for the dissemination of international law materials as well as for advanced legal research;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law as a major contribution to the teaching and dissemination of international law around the world, and urges States to make voluntary contributions to enable the Codification Division to continue and further develop the Library;

12. *Commends* the Codification Division on the 2009 Best Website Award granted to the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law by the International Association of Law Libraries at its annual meeting, held in Turkey in October 2009;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide relevant information to the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to facilitate its consideration of the matter referred to in paragraph 89 of his report;[1]

14. *Encourages* the use of the internship programme for the preparation of materials for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law;

15. *Welcomes* the training and technical assistance activities in international law undertaken by the Office of Legal Affairs in the framework of the Programme of Assistance, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, and encourages the continuation of such activities within available resources;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for its participation in the Programme of Assistance through the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General;

17. *Also expresses its appreciation* to The Hague Academy of International Law for the valuable contribution it continues to make to the Programme of Assistance, which has enabled candidates under the International Law Fellowship Programme to attend and participate in the Fellowship Programme in conjunction with the Academy courses;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of The Hague Academy to the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, and calls upon Member States and interested organizations to give favourable consideration to the appeal of the Academy for a continuation of support and a possible increase in their financial contributions, to enable the Academy to carry out its activities, particularly those relating to the summer courses, regional courses and programmes of the Centre for Studies and Research in International Law and International Relations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations, as well as individuals, to make voluntary contributions towards the

[4] www.un.org/law/UNlegalpublications/index.html.

financing of the Programme of Assistance or otherwise to assist in its implementation and possible expansion;

20. *Reiterates its request* to Member States and to interested organizations and individuals to make voluntary contributions, inter alia, for the International Law Fellowship Programme and the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, institutions and individuals that have made voluntary contributions for this purpose;

21. *Urges* in particular all Governments to make voluntary contributions for regional courses in international law, as an important complement to the International Law Fellowship Programme, organized by the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, thus alleviating the burden on prospective host countries and making it possible to resume the organization of regional courses;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during 2010 and, following consultations with the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance, to submit recommendations regarding the execution of the Programme of Assistance in subsequent years;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law".